

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BE
JCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 03070

LONDON FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HARTMAN

MADRID FOR AMBASSADOR STABLER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, NATO, SP
SUBJECT: US-SPANISH COUNCIL: FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC
COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION WITH NATO

REF: (A) STATE 106109 (TOSEC 040138) (DTG 101624Z MAY 77),
(B) MADRID 3478 (DTG 051601Z MAY 77)

1. WE AGREE WITH WASHINGTON THAT THE SPANISH HAVE EXAG-
GERATED HOPES ABOUT EARLY PROSPECTS FOR OPENING DIRECT
CHANNELS TO THE CIVIL AND MILITARY ORGANS OF THE ALLIANCE.
WE BELIEVE SUCH CONTACTS WILL BE STRONGLY RESISTED BY SOME
ALLIES AND WILL ONLY BE FEASIBLE AFTER THE ELECTIONS ARE
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PAST AND A CLEAR CONSENSUS HAS EMERGED AMONG ALL ALLIES
POINTING TOWARD SPANISH ACCESSION TO THE NATO TREATY.
MEANWHILE, WE BELIEVE THAT USEFUL WORK CAN BE DONE,
AS EARLIER PROPOSED, IN BILATERAL CONTACTS, TO ALLOW THE
SPANISH TO: (A) DEFINE THE DIRECTIONS IN WHICH THEY WISH
TO MOVE, (B) ESTABLISH PRIORITIES, AND (C) BUILD UP THEIR
FUND OF INFORMATION ABOUT NATO.

2. THUS, WE BELIEVE THE US COULD PROPOSE AT THE MAY 12 US-SPANISH COUNCIL MEETING, OR SOON THEREAFTER, THE FOLLOWING STEPS THAT COULD CHANNEL THE SPANISH APPETITE FOR EARLY CONTACTS DIRECTLY WITH NATO IN MORE REALISTIC DIRECTIONS:

(A) DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL CONTACTS, ALONG THE LINES SPELLED OUT IN 76 USNATO 2481 (DTG 061220Z MAY 76);

(B) CAREFUL DEFINITION BY THE SPANISH OF THEIR OBJECTIVES IN SEEKING CLOSER TIES WITH NATO, ESPECIALLY THE MILITARY BENEFITS. THIS IMPORTANT DEFINITIONAL EFFORT, PERHAPS BEGUN IN THE RECENT SPANISH WAR COLLEGE STUDY, CAN BE ASSISTED BY:

(1) VISITS BY THE SPANISH PERMANENT SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS OF THE US-SPANISH COUNCIL TO ALLIED CAPITALS FOR DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIFIC NATO ACTIVITIES;

(2) VISITS TO MADRID BY US AND OTHER ALLIED OFFICIALS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SPANISH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES;

(3) INCREASINGLY CLOSE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS AND ALLIED DELEGATIONS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS.

(C) AFTER EXTENSIVE SPANISH EXPLORATION OF THEIR PRIORITY-CONFIDENTIAL

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TIES AND OPTIONS WITH REGARD TO PREPARING FOR MEMBERSHIP, DEVELOPMENT BY THE SPANISH OF A CAREFUL PLAN DETAILING THE STEPS SPAIN WILL NEED TO TAKE TO ALIGN ITS DOMESTIC DISPOSITIONS TO ACCOMMODATE ACCESSION TO NATO'S POLITICAL AND INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURES;

(D) SUBJECT TO SYG LUNS' AGREEMENT, AND AFTER THE SPANISH HAVE FRAMED THE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED, THE ARRANGEMENT OF VISITS BY THE SPANISH PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE JOINT US-SPANISH COUNCIL AND SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS TO NATO HEADQUARTERS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH LUNS AND HIS SENIOR AIDES. (WHILE LUNS MAY BE CONCERNED ABOUT ALLIED RESISTANCE TO SUCH CONTACTS, THE LOW-KEY SUPPORT OF THE US MISSION CAN BE USED TO EASE CONTACTS AND, SO LONG AS THE ISSUES ARE CLEARLY DEFINED AND DO NOT SEEM TO BE FORCING THE PACE TOO FAST, WE BELIEVE THE VISITS CAN BE PRODUCTIVE); AND

(E) FINALLY, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO BRIEF THE

ALLIES REGULARLY ON THE RESULTS OF THE WORK OF THE US-SPANISH COUNCIL.

3. THE FOREGOING, WE BELIEVE, MAKES SENSE IN RELATION BOTH TO THE REAL WORK SPAIN MUST UNDERTAKE TO PREPARE ITSELF FOR ACCESSION AND TO THE EVOLUTION OF ALLIED ATTITUDES, WHICH WILL ALSO BE IMPROVED BY BILATERAL EVIDENCE OF SPAIN'S DETERMINATION TO TAKE A WORKMANLIKE APPROACH TO PREPARING FOR NATO MEMBERSHIP.

4. WE WILL COMMENT ON OTHER ASPECTS OF REF B BY SEPTEL. STREATOR

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